Many houses in Harpers Ferry today were constructed in the 19th century. While some houses built during this time have been lost to fire, war, or disuse, the remaining housing stock reminds us of the town's place in history and how its citizens lived.

Harpers Ferry is not a museum. The structures have been lived in, modified, restored, modernized, or simply maintained. Enough reminders of this period remain to help us imagine living with an outdoor kitchen, a true carriage house, side streets as dirt paths, or water from the town pump.

1861-1865
The Civil War wrought severe damage to almost every structure in Upper Town as Harpers Ferry was continuously reoccupied by the North and the South, changing hands numerous times. Commanding officers confiscated some houses for headquarters, the military utilized many for hospitals, and other houses were destroyed by soldiers for firewood. Most residents abandoned the town during this period, suffering charges of sympathizing with whichever side was not in command.

1865-1900
The last 35 years of the 19th century was a period of reconstruction and gradual growth of the town. Harpers Ferry faced devastating floods and the decline of water power as a major source of power. Outdoor kitchens and carriage houses were improved, and rail links were added to the town's growing transportation system.

1800-1861
During the first 60 years of the 19th century Harpers Ferry became an industrial town centered primarily on the U.S. Armory, mills and factories located in Lower Town. Upper Town grew to meet the housing needs of employees of these industries.

Please visit our website to evaluate this guide. You may also join and make a tax-deductible contribution to the Foundation on the website as your part in helping to preserve Harpers Ferry, an American treasure. Your contributions are gratefully received.

www.harpersferryfoundation.org
The cornerstone of St. John’s Episcopal Church was laid in 1895, and the church was completed in 1899. It is a successor to the original church building that now exists as ruins in the National Park. The current building is in a simple Gothic style.

Storer College gave one of its faculty members a third of an acre on which her husband built this house in 1875. The home is in the Queen Anne style and has elaborate woodwork. The current owner, architect for the National Park, has extensively restored the exterior.

The Lutheran Church was built in 1850 as a single story brick structure with the upstairs balcony visible through the windows. On the morning of October 17, 1859 the church bell rang a warning of the John Brown raid. The church then served as a gathering place for citizens taking action against Brown’s raiders. It was used as a Union hospital during the Civil War and is largely unaltered from that time.

As you walk around please remember these are private homes and respect that privacy.

St. John’s Episcopal Church

Raspberry Hill

Public Square

Armory House #103

Camp Hill-Wesley United Methodist Church

Armory House #111

Peregoy House

Briscoe House

Storer College National Park Service

INDUSTRY

REBUILDING

To Lower Town

Columbia

Gilmore

Fillmore

Ridge

McDowell

Jackson

Washington

Taylor

Boundary

Union

To Bolivar

St. John’s Episcopal Church

1875 House

Lutheran Church

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